

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automatically reproducing digital audio data via an audio data reproducing means (5) of a computer device (1), especially for automatically reproducing dictated, electronically stored data, the computer device (1) further comprising a memory means (8) for storing the digital audio data, an input means including a keyboard (6) for detecting user inputs, a display means (3) for the output of electronic image information, and a control unit (2) to control and/or monitor electronic data transfers between the audio data reproducing means (5), the memory means (8), the input means with its keyboard (6), the display means (3) and/or the control unit (2), the method comprising:
  - electronically assigning a respective predetermined functionality each to a plurality of key members of the keyboard (6) in connection with the automatic reproduction of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5);
  - the control unit (2) accessing the digital audio data stored in the memory means (8), based upon the predetermined functionality of one of the plural key members, and automatically causing the digital audio data to be reproduced via the audio data reproducing means (5) upon electronic detection of an actuation of the one key member with the aid of the control unit (2), at first outputting, for a predetermined period of time  $t$ , audio signals TS1 that correspond to at least a subset TM1 of the digital audio data;
  - automatically making periodic checks with the aid of the control unit (2) to see whether write data can be detected which were input via the keyboard (6) in connection with a write program executed in the computer device (1) during the output of the audio signals TS1;
  - immediately upon completion of the output of the audio signals TS1, the control unit (2) automatically causing further audio signals TS2 that correspond to another subset

TM2, successive to subset TM1 of the digital audio data, to be output via the audio data reproducing means (5) for the predetermined period of time t, if write data which were input through the keyboard (6) in connection with the write program executed in the computer device (1) are detected with the aid of the control unit (2) upon completion of the output of the audio signals TS1; and, if not, the reproduction of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5) being interrupted automatically.

- 10 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein reproducing of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5) is interrupted for a predetermined interruption period  $t_u$ , and subsequent to the interruption period  $t_u$  the further audio signals TS2 are output automatically.
- 15 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time t is automatically set differently with the aid of the control unit (2), depending on which of the plural key members of the keyboard (6) was electronically detected to have been actuated.
- 20 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the keyboard (6) is implemented with the aid of the control unit (2) as a display keypad (31) on the display means (3), and actuation of the plural key members as well as the input of write data via the display keypad (31) in connection with the write program  
25 executed in the computer device (1) are detected electronically by the control unit (2).
- 30 5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein electronic text data (20) are shown on the display means (3) in the course of the reproduction of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5), said electronic text data corresponding to electronic speech recognition data which were generated automatically with the aid of a speech recognition means (10) on the basis of the digital audio data.

6. A computer device, comprising

- an audio data reproducing means (5) for reproducing digital audio data;
- a memory means (8) for electronically storing the digital audio data;
- a display means (3) for the output of electronic image information;
- an input means including a keyboard (6) for use by a user to produce inputs; and
- a control unit (2) to control and/or monitor electronic data transfers between the audio data reproducing means (5), the memory means (8), the input means with its keyboard (6), the display means (3) and/or the control unit (2), the control unit (2) comprising:
  - assigning means to electronically assign a respective predetermined functionality each to a plurality of key members of the keyboard (6) in connection with the automatic reproduction of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5);
  - accessing means to access the digital audio data stored in the memory means (8), based upon the predetermined functionality of one of the plural key members;
  - controlling means to automatically cause the digital audio data to be reproduced via the audio data reproducing means (5) upon electronic detection of an actuation of the one key member with the aid of detecting means, at first outputting, for a predetermined period of time  $t$ , audio signals TS1 that correspond to at least a subset TM1 of the digital audio data; and
  - checking means to automatically check periodically whether write data which are input via the keyboard (6) in connection with an implemented write program (21) during the output of the audio signals TS1 can be detected;

the controlling means being implemented so as to automatically cause further audio signals TS2 that correspond to another subset TM2, successive to subset TM1 of the digital audio data, to be output via the audio data reproducing means (5) for the predetermined period of time  $t$ , immediately upon completion of the output of the audio

signals TS1, if write data which are input through the keyboard (6) in connection with the implemented write program upon completion of the output of the audio signals TS1 are detected with the aid of the checking means; and, if not, to automatically interrupt the  
5 reproduction of the digital audio data via the audio data reproducing means (5).